

0437842604

Heritage Conservation and Restoration Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Washington, D.C. 20243

B-3784

MAGI# 0437842604

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION
APPLICATION -- PART 1
(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side of a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY:

Address of property Street 605 Park Avenue

City Baltimore

County

State Maryland

Zip Code 21202

Name of historic district in which property is located

National Register Landmark District, 1971
Baltimore City Historic District, 1964

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

Use instructions for map and photograph requirements. Use reverse side if necessary.

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Use reverse side if necessary.

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

Date of construction (if known)

c. 1885

X Original site

[] Moved

Date of alterations (if known)

mid 20th cent.

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name SOJNERS and SOJNERS, c/o Milton Sojners

Street 824 Park Avenue

City Baltimore

State Maryland

Zip Code 21202

Telephone Number (during day) Area Code (301) 728-1400

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge correct and that I am owner of the property described above.

Signature

Prepared by: Barbara Hoff, Dalsemer, Catzen and Associates, Inc.
14 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Date

for office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes; it does not contribute to the character of the district.The structure appears to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☒ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60.7).The structure is located in a district which appears to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60.7) and it appears to contribute to the character of said district.

Signature

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

3-11-82

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under Section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954

is hereby certified a historic structure.

Does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.

Signature

Special Agent in Charge of the National Register

Date

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION--PART 1

Name/address of Property: 605 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Name/address of Owner: Sommers & Sommers, 824 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202

Telephone: (301) 728-1400

Prepared by: Barbara Hoff, Dalsemer, Catzen and Associates, Inc.

14 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Telephone: (301) 837-3691

DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

605 Park Avenue exemplifies the elaborate, heavily detailed rowhouses found in the Mount Vernon Historic District. Buildings such as it blend with one another to create the significant architectural environment of the district. The building is a Queen Anne style rowhouse built of masonry with a coursed granite quarry faced ashlar facade. The ashlar is laid with alternating courses of thick and thin blocks. The structure is three and a half stories high, five bays wide, and has a high basement and a mansard roof. The three southern bays are bowed.

The high basement consists of the ashlar cut with a convex face creating a rusticated effect. Above it there is a beveled water table. The entrance, located in the two northern bays, is a rather complex composition. The porch is in antis with steps leading into the northernmost bay. The main door is a contemporary plain wood door perpendicular to the facade. The facade wall within the porch is bowed with two one over one double hung wood windows with aluminum storm windows. The porch ceiling is paneled and has a fine dentiled crown molding. The bay immediately south of the porch contains a very large one over one round-arch wood window, which has a balcony. The balcony wall is decorated with arabesque carvings, and contains a lion's head mascarón. Three engaged columns across the front of the porch and balcony support a full entablature. The two end columns are coupled with pilasters, and all of these supportive members have stopped fluting and Romanesque style foliated capitals. The entablature contains arabesque decorations and mascaróns beneath the architrave as well as within the frieze. The cornice contains bead and reel, egg and dart, and dentiled moldings. Within the porch, the north bay is bowed and has two small one over one double hung wood sash windows with a one over one aluminum storm window.

The three first floor bays of the southern bow windows contain one over one wood sash windows with one over one aluminum storm windows. The sills and lintels are dressed faced ashlar. Above the lintels are leaded glass transoms which also have dressed faced ashlar lintels.

The second floor windows are all one over one double hung wood sash windows with one over one aluminum storm windows. The dressed faced ashlar sills and lintels are linked across the facade to form belt courses. The two windows in the northern two bays are recessed, with arabesque motifs in spandrel panels beneath subsills, and with architrave above the lintels.

The third floor is comprised of short one over one double hung wood sash windows with one over one aluminum storm windows. The sills lie behind a dentiled belt course. The lintels actually form a fascia across the facade decorated with arabesque motifs. Beneath it there is an egg and dart motif running between the windows. Above the fascia is a dentiled cornice. In addition, the two northern bays have shallow broken scroll pediments over the windows.

The mansard roof contains two large dormers symmetrically placed. Each has four small one over one wood sash windows, with two central ones paired. Below them is a thin architrave, above them is a thin dentiled cornice and hip roof. The gables on either end of the house are raised above the roof, and there are two chimneys, one in the center and one in the north end.

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DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The rear of the building has one southern bay of windows, which include wood doors to the basement, a first floor one over one double hung wood window with an aluminum storm window, and a second and third story of six over six double hung wood windows. An iron fire escape extends down the bay.

The other two bays have a three story back building attached to them; this building is three bays long, built of painted common bond brick.

On its northern facade, the windows have six over six wood double hung sashes with stone subsills and flat arches. There is a one bay, two story oriel window with a flat roof. All the windows on the back building have one over one aluminum storm windows.

There is a two story one bay addition to the rear of the back building built of painted common bond brick. The first story windows are the same as the back building. The second story windows only differ in having soldier course segmental arches. There is another iron fire escape from the back building down across the rear addition. Both rear buildings have shed roofs.

The painted east facade of this addition - the only visible east wall of the back buildings-- contains a single large bay for a garage. It has an "I" beam lintel above the opening. The east wall of the back building is visible within the garage; it has a bricked up window and door opening.

The north walls of the back building has windows in the first story only with double course rowlock segmental arches, wood double hung windows, and aluminum storm windows. These windows are not original: the brick shows evidence of alteration. The north wall of the rear garage addition has a door in its central bay. Wood steps lead from an unobservable door in the back building to the ground.

The interior still retains its original floor plan of room organized in a line parallel to a circulation axis, and the rooms have been converted into apartments with a variety of surface finishes applied during recent years. This building has a rich interior, including its original wood paneled vestibule doors and doorway. The vestibule has a paneled ceiling and crown molding. The entrance hall has a glazed ceramic tile fireplace with an iron fireback. The bow window has a window seat and paneled wood shutters. There is a special divider separating the hall from the vestibule consisting of fluted Doric columns with decorated capitals supporting a sprung arch with paneled soffits.

The main hallway and staircase are rather elaborate. The doorway to the rear of the hall has fluted Ionic columns supporting a full entablature. The staircase has a paneled spandrel and an open bracketed face string. The balusters are turned, and the newel is quite ornate with paneling, a columnette, and finial. The floors are still natural wood.

Double doors of six panels with architrave surrounds lead into the first floor apartment. This apartment also has a black marble fireplace with glazed tile decorations, otherwise, the decoration is simple consisting of baseboards and architrave surrounds on the openings. The windows have paneled shutters and leaded transoms.

The conversion of this structure into an apartment house is typical of the area which now consists mainly of professional offices and apartments. In general, the building still retains its original character in its materials, scale, plan, proportion, and details. As a result, the building augments the special environment of the Mount Vernon Historic District.

Name/address of Property: 605 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Name/address of Owner: Somers and Somers, 824 Park Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21202

Telephone: (301) 728-1400

Prepared by: Barbara Hoff, Dalsemer, Catzen and Associates, Inc.

14 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Telephone: (301) 837-3691

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of 605 Park Avenue lies in its architectural contribution to the environment of the Mount Vernon Historic District.

The Mount Vernon Historic District is both a Baltimore City District and, in part, a National Register Historic Landmark District. Mount Vernon was the first Historic District in Baltimore City, designated in 1964 and expanded five times to the current boundaries, which have been certified by the Department of the Interior for purposes of the Historic Preservation Tax Incentives. The ordinance creating the Mount Vernon Historic District also established the Baltimore City Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation to oversee all changes within the District and to recommend other areas and buildings in the City for historic designation. The Historic District and the Commission were outgrowths of the Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Plan, one of the City's earliest efforts to incorporate preservation and renovation of existing structures with new development. The current Historic District now encompasses two Urban Renewal Areas: Mount Vernon and Midtown-Belvedere.

The Mount Vernon Historic District grew from the early 19th century through the early 20th century and retains structures--residential, commercial, and religious--from that time. The area was Baltimore's most fashionable neighborhood and as such includes some of the finest architecture in the City, built for wealthy residents, congregations, and institutions, and designed by architects of local and national renown. The greater portion of the district was once the estate of John Eager Howard, revolutionary war patriot and statesman. His mansion, Belvidere, was located at what is now the 1000 block of North Calvert Street. The centerpiece of the district is the Washington Monument and Mount Vernon Place. The monument is the first formal monument erected to commemorate George Washington and is one of the finest examples of monumental architecture in the country. It was erected from 1815 to 1829 and designed by Robert Mills, one of the first American born and trained architects in the country. The development of the squares known as Mount Vernon Place and Washington Place, dates from the 1830's, when the land was subdivided by Howard's heirs, who then built some of the first houses. Prior to the construction of the monument and the development of the squares, brick working class houses were built on Tyson Street, Read Street and North Howard Street, the earliest dating from 1810. These buildings still exist, some are residences and others have been converted to antique shops. The houses on Hamilton Street date from 1820 and were designed by Robert Cary Long Sr, the architect of the Peale Museum and Davidge Hall.

The area which is now the Historic District continued to develop. Baltimore's prominent and wealthy residents moved north to the rural area because the land around the harbor was rapidly becoming industrialized and because the City was flooded with immigrants, who flocked to Baltimore to work in the newly established industries. Construction continued to take place in the 1880's and 1890's after the Howard estate had been sold. By the early 20th century, Mount Royal Avenue and parts of Howard Street had been developed, completing the construction in the district.

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Baltimore, Maryland 21202

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Mount Vernon displays a complete range of 19th century building styles: Greek Revival, early and late Renaissance Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Victorian Gothic, Chateau, Beaux-Arts, Colonial Revival, Art Deco; and combinations and vernacular interpretations of these styles.

Many of the elegant townhouses and all of the churches, apartments, and hotels were designed by eminent local and national architects including; Stanford White, William A. Delano, John Russell Pope, Edmund G. Lind, Francis E. Baldwin and Josias Pennington, J.B. Noel Wyatt, J. Crawford Neilson, John Rudolph Niernsee, Joseph Evans Sperry, Nathan G. Starkweather, Jackson Gott, J.A. Wilson, Charles E. Cassell, Thomas Dixon and Charles Carson, Harleston J. Parker and Douglas H. Thomas, Edward H. Glidden, and noted contemporary architects including Edward Durrell Stone, James R. Gries Associates and the firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott.

Among the prominent families who engaged these architects and lived in the area were the philanthropists; George Peabody, Enoch Pratt, and William and Henry Walters, who founded the Peabody Conservatory of Music, The Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Walters Art Gallery, all of which are located in or on the boarder of the Mount Vernon District; the Winans family who developed railroad systems in this country and in Russia; several Johns Hopkins Hospital physicians and chemists, including Henry August Rowland and Ira Remsen; William Pinkney White, a Governor of the State, and Mayor of the City; and the Warfields, Pattersons, McKims, and Sissons, among others.

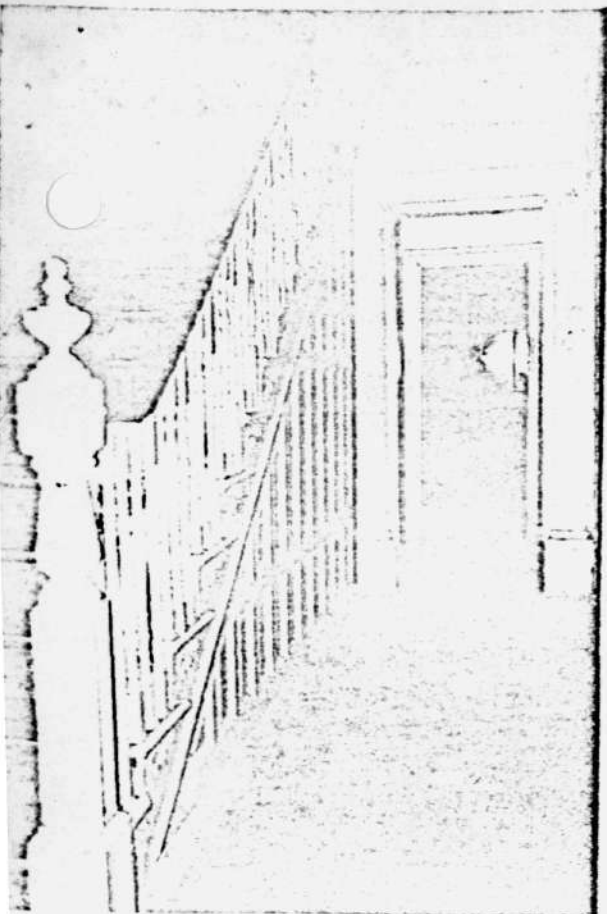
The specific architectural contribution of 605 Park Avenue exists in three areas. First, the building possesses a historically important style: the Queen Anne. This style, which flourished in Baltimore from 1870 until about 1890 occurred at a time when any stylistic conformity in rowhouse design disappeared completely and instead owners turned to designs which were individualistic, picturesque, and eclectic. Buildings such as 605 represent the last phase of expensive rowhouses, afterwards wealthy persons preferred detached, suburban homes.

The second architectural contribution of the building lies in that it was built as a residence with a high quality of design: fine masonry, a variety of carved decoration, multiple planes on the facade, leaded glass, and large scale. All of these traits epitomize the character of the district as a wealthy residential area. Finally, the materials of the structure as well as its scale and proportion blend in with neighboring houses to create a visually harmonious streetscape. The continuity of these streetscapes in turn produces the special historic fabric of the Mount Vernon Historic District.

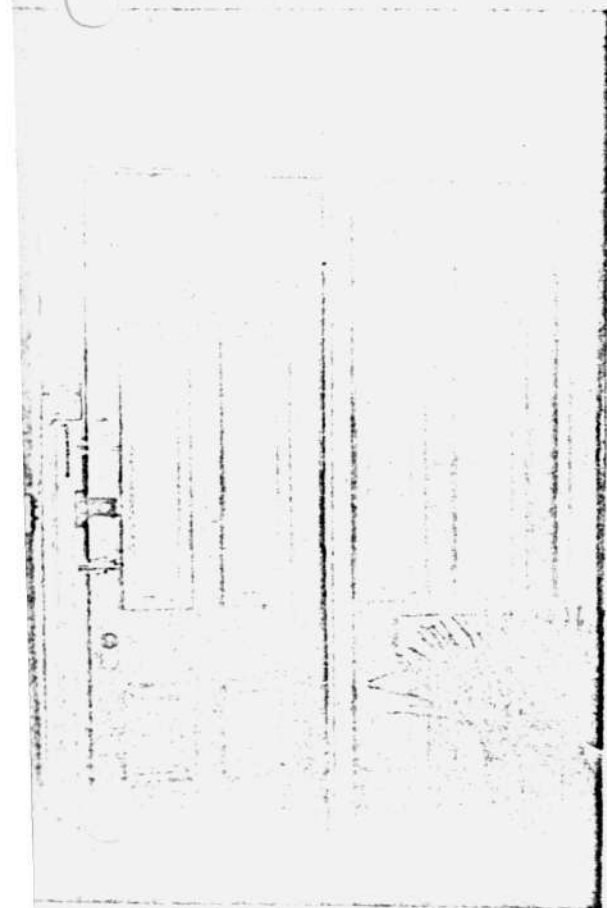
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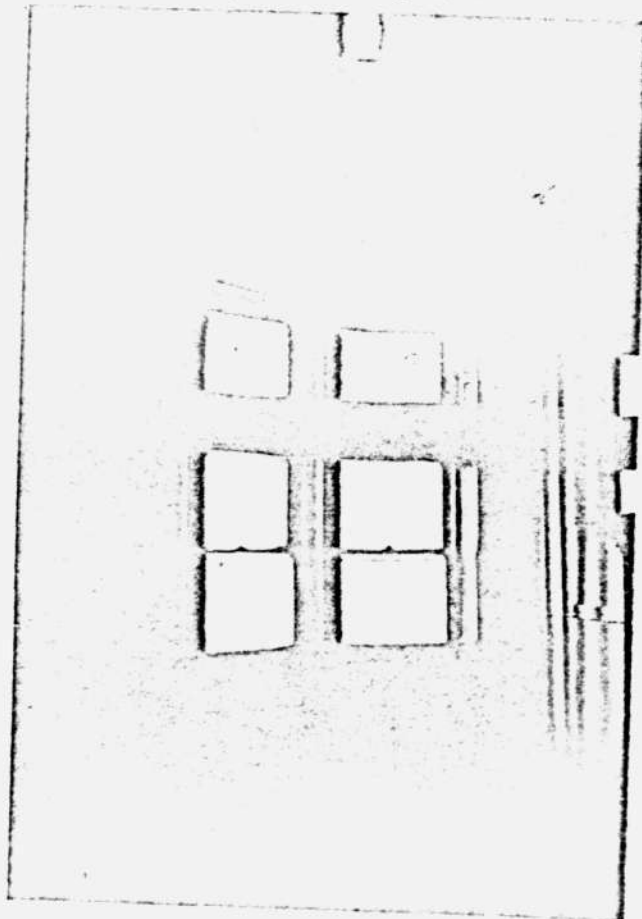
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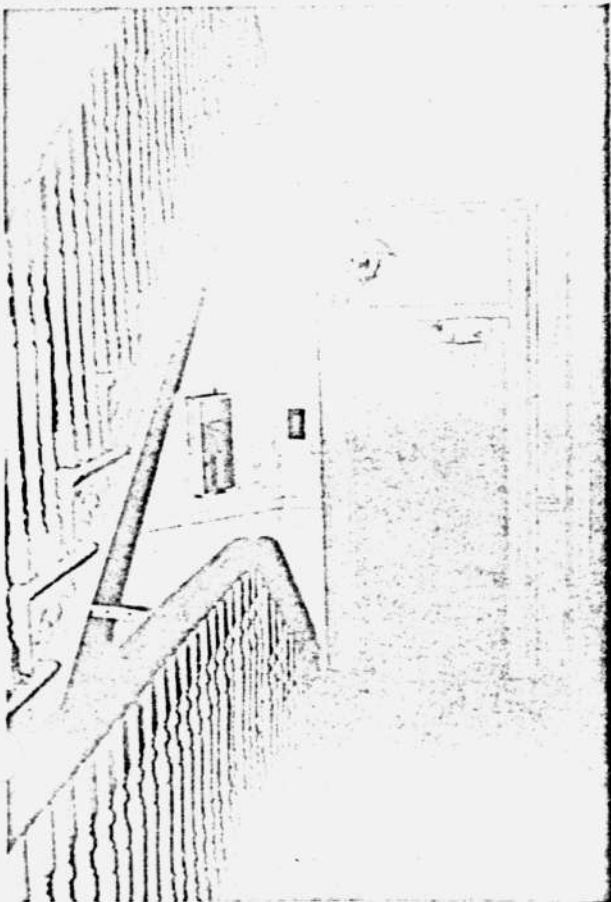
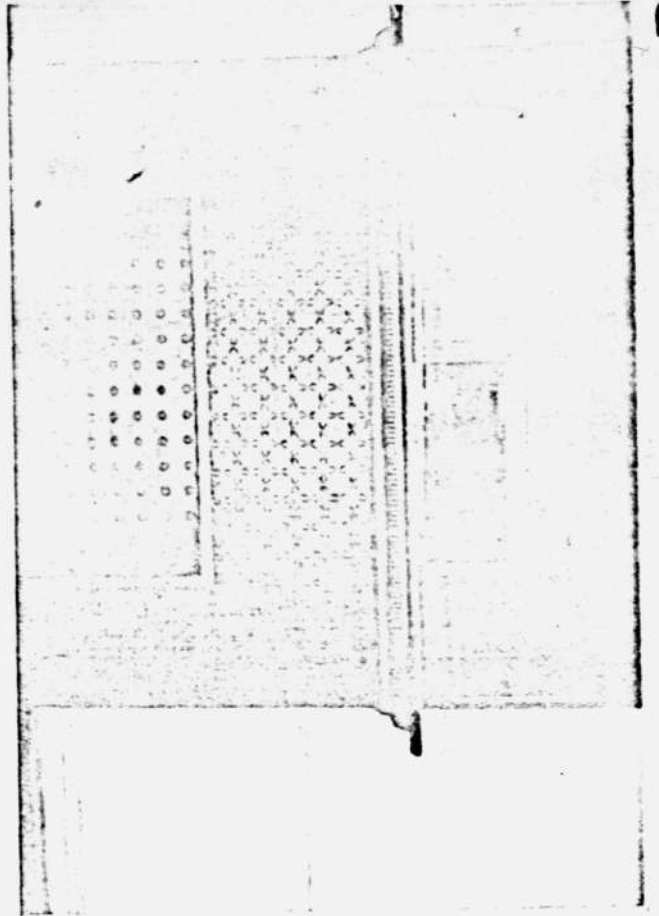
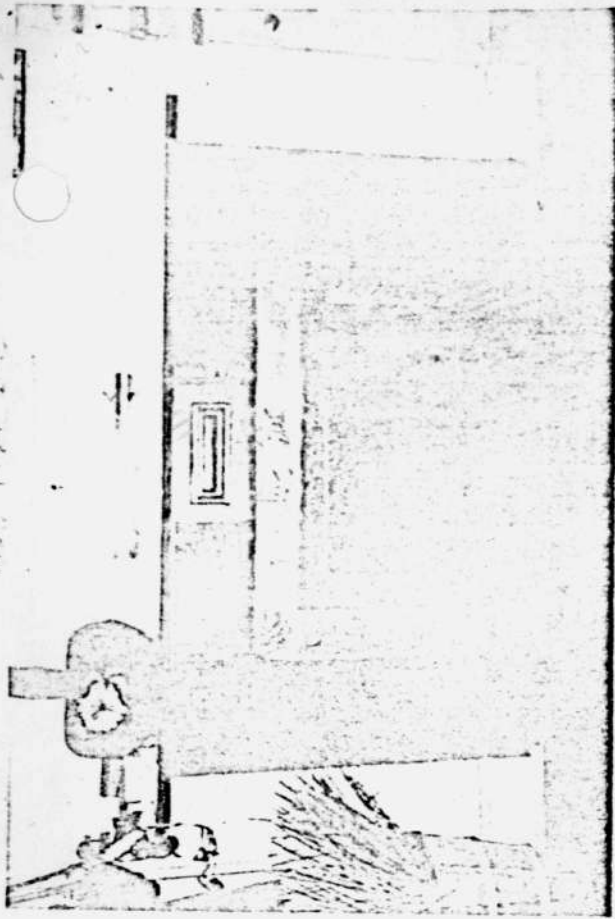


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Block 0532, Lot 019
Baltimore City
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